

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MEX

SUBJECT: ATTORNEY GENERAL'S GROUND RULES FOR MOPSS

1. IN MEETING AUGUST 16 WITH PROJECT MANAGER OF SPECTRAL DATA CORPORATION (SDC) TEAM, DEA'S ZONE I SUPERVISOR, NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT (NAU) PROGRAM OFFICER, AND NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE DR. GERTZ MANERO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS CONCERNING SDC OPERATION OF MULTISPECTRAL OPIUM POPPY SENSING SYSTEM (MOPSS):

(A) SDC TEAM IS TO HAVE COMPLETE LATITUDE IN ITS OPERATIONS WITHIN THE 80,000 SQUARE KILOMETER AREA IN WHICH IT IS TO WORK.

GERTZ REQUESTED ONLY THAT IDENTIFICATION FLIGHTS NOT BE SO WIDELY DISPERSED OVER BRIEF PERIOD SO AS TO REQUIRE EXTENSIVE REPOSITIONING OF SPRAY EQUIPMENT.

(B) GERTZ IS ASSIGNING SEVERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL(AG)MOPSS TECHNICIANS TO SDC TEAM AS OBSERVERS, BUT WITH EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS NOT RPT NOT TO IMPEDE SDC OPERATIONS. AG MOPSS SUPERVISOR SERGIO ZAPATA WAS DESIGNATED AS AG FULL-TIME LIAISON OFFICER ASSIGNED TO SDC TEAM. GERTZ REQUESTED SDC PROJECT MANAGER NOT RPT NOT TO ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE TRAINING EFFORT WITH THESE OBSERVERS, BUT TO PERMIT THEM TO OBSERVE AND ABSORB.

(C) GERTZ AGREED TO HANDLE ALL WORK PERMIT REQUIREMENTS, REQUESTING ONLY THE NAMES AND POSITION TITLES OF SDC GROUP MEMBERS.

(D) SDC GROUP IS NOT RPT NOT TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS EXCEPT THROUGH PROJECT MANAGER, WHO MUST OBTAIN AG APPROVAL.

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IF CLOSELY QUESTIONED BY PRESS OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS,

GROUP MEMBERS ARE TO EXPLAIN THAT SDC SOLD AG ADVANCED EQUIPMENT AND THAT GROUP IS IN MEXICO TO TRAIN MEXICAN OPERATORS AND ASSURE THAT EQUIPMENT WORKING PROPERLY. GERTZ MOST ANXIOUS THAT THERE BE NO PRESS PLAY ON FACT THAT SDC IS UNDER CONTRACT TO USG..

(E) GERTZ EXPECTS DAILY RPT DAILY REPORTS FROM AG OBSERVERS ASSIGNED TO SDC THROUGH HIS LIAISON OFFICER ZAPATA SO THAT SDC OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES CAN BE RAPIDLY TRANSFERRED TO SECOND MOPSS UNIT OPERATED BY AG PERSONNEL IN MEXICO CITY. CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION (GERTZ SOUGHT AND WAS GIVEN ASSURANCE THAT BOTH TEAMS WOULD HAVE IDENTICAL EQUIPMENT) INDICATES HE INTENDS TO PLAY ONE UNIT AGAINST THE OTHER.

2. GERTZ IS LESS INTERESTED IN IMMEDIATE SDC VERIFICATION OF AG SPRAYING OPERATIONS THAN IN REGULAR REPORTS ON WHERE POPPY FIELDS ARE LOCATED, WHETHER OR NOT INDIVIDUAL FIELDS WERE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY SDC. HE INDICATED THE INTENTION TO TAKE NECESSARY MANAGEMENT ACTION IF SAME FIELD SHOWS UP MORE THAN ONCE.

3. COMMENT: MISSION REPRESENTATIVES AT MEETING ENCOURAGED BY ATTITUDE OF GERTZ AND FACILITIES ACCORDED TO SDC. HE SEEMS COMMITTED TO GIVE MOPSS FAIR TRIAL, ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT HE STILL HARBORS DOUBTS ABOUT SYSTEM.

SDC PROJECT MANAGER AND NAU PROGRAM OFFICER DEPARTING EVENING AUGUST 17 FOR SITE SURVEY IN CULIACAN AND CONVERSATIONS WITH AG'S REPRESENTATIVES THERE.
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